

Today's News - Thursday, December 2, 2010

- Kamin has high hopes for what could be Chicago Mayor Daley's "last hurrah"; new life for a former (thanks to the mayor) waterfront airstrip: it "could become one of his defining legacies - a people-friendly showcase of 21st Century ecology."
- A UAE architecture professor brings lessons from NYC's High Line home: "why is it so important for us - inhabitants of the Gulf's gleaming cityscapes? ...mega projects are not the solution to our cities; sometimes the small can be as effective."
- In Las Vegas, CityCenter tries to deal with design challenges that leave passers-by passing by (could "no pedestrians" signs have something to do with it?).
- U.K.'s Greenwich Millennium Village chooses team for "the final tranche" (again).
- Heathcote's heart doesn't exactly heave over Stratford's new Shakespeare theater, but at least it is "now a civic building...and the old details are still there to enjoy."
- Tischler gives us an eyeful of Safdie's mega-billion-dollar Marina Bay Sands in Singapore that's "already busy minting money."
- A "time capsule" of Black history in Brooklyn is rediscovered and preserved - "preservation wasn't the only goal" (a very cool project).
- An architect considers what's needed to conserve Cairo, and how it "teaches industrializing countries, sometimes by error, how to safeguard patrimony."
- Reports of Alsop not bringing home the bacon for RMJM seem to have been greatly exaggerated.
- Architects, academics, and journalists discuss the need "for improved management skills in architecture practices" (what a concept!).
- Art Basel Miami Beach x 2: Roux raves about its pop-up architecture and how temporary buildings have "a remarkable way of animating our urban environment" + Slevin's Q&A with the (totally recyclable) Exhale Pavilion designers Hoang and Rotem.
- Call for entries: Taiwan's Taichung Gateway Park International Design Competition.

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New Northerly Island Park plan promises an oasis of ecology - and Daley's last hurrah: Mayor Richard Daley's infamous "midnight raid" on Meigs Field, when city backhoes carved giant X's into the runway of the tiny lakefront airport, was one of his defining acts. Now...the former airstrip could become one of his defining legacies - a people-friendly showcase of 21st Century ecology. By Blair Kamin -- JJR/Studio Gang [images]- Chicago Tribune

The Berlin Diaries (4): New York and the High Line project: ...alternative modes of urbanism in Berlin and an infrastructure project in Stuttgart...a connection to both...why is it so important for us – inhabitants of the Gulf's gleaming cityscapes? ...mega projects are not the solution to our cities; sometimes the small can be as effective...illustrates the effectiveness of a partnership between a private citizen group and the local government By By Yasser Elsheshtawy -- James Corner Field Operations; Diller Scofidio + Renfro [links]- Alroya.com (Dubai, UAE)

Design challenges leave passers-by passing CityCenter by: ...will add landscaping and signs to make the entrance more inviting and guide pedestrians...The issue highlights an age-old challenge along the colossal carnival midway that is the Las Vegas Strip and one that has grown crucial in the tough economy: How to lure customers inside your casino. There's no magic formula. [slide show]- Las Vegas Sun

Millennium village winners chosen: A team comprising Jestico & Whiles, Peter Barber Architects and Studio 54 Architecture has been chosen to design one of the most prestigious regeneration schemes in the country – the final tranche of the Greenwich Millennium Village...work represents the last part of a masterplan by the late Ralph Erskine..."one feels for those who didn't make it." - BD/Building Design (UK)

Stratford's remodelled Shakespeare theatre: The 1,000-seat auditorium looks good...Outside the auditorium though, all is not well...wounds are self-inflicted, a direct result of the architect's decisions. Their trauma feels more like false memory syndrome, out of place...Despite my reservations, this is now a civic building...and the old details are still there to enjoy. By Edwin Heathcote -- Elisabeth Scott (1932); Bennetts Associates; Charcoal Blue- Financial Times (UK)

A Building That Will Earn \$1 Billion a Year, Built in Just Five: The second phase of Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, the \$5.7B integrated resort designed by Moshe Safdie...is already busy minting money from Asia's avid shoppers and gamblers. By Linda Tischler -- Safdie Architects [images]- Fast Company

A Time Capsule of Black History, Rediscovered and Preserved in New York: ...an improbably intact remnant of Weeksville, the country's first community of free, black Americans...preservation wasn't the only goal. -- Caples Jefferson Architects; Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architects [images]- Fast Company

Conserving Cairo: A Charlottesville architect tracks the growth of Egypt's largest city through the economics and politics of conserving a fragile architectural legacy...Keeping Cairo intact depends now more than ever on Egypt's sponsorship of ethical architectural and cultural conservation practices...teaches industrializing countries, sometimes by error, how to safeguard patrimony. By Brian Broadus, AIA [images]- Inform: Architecture + Design in the Mid-Atlantic (Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects)

Alsop brings new work to RMJM: Will Alsop has brought at least 10 projects to RMJM, including a residential sector for Masdar City in Abu Dhabi and subway stations in Canada, wrested from his former outfit, Alsop Sparch. This contradicts reports that he has failed to bring in work in his first year at the practice. [images]- The Architects' Journal (UK)

Architecture, Management & Design Debate: IE School of Architecture recently presented its new Master in Architectural Management & Design in London. Influential architects, academics and journalists discussed the need for improved management skills in architecture practices. -- Christine Murray/The Architects' Journal; Ken Shuttleworth/Make Architects; Ron Sidell/Sidell Gibson Architects; Peter Murray/NLA/Professor, MAMD; Manon Janssens/Zaha Hadid Architects; Javier Quintana, Dean, IE School of Architecture; Paul Davis/Paul Davis + Partners [video]- IE School of Architecture (Madrid)

Art Basel Miami Beach: everyone loves a pop-up: ...temporary buildings are a remarkable way of animating our urban environment. London and even Miami are already finished, overbuilt, overcrowded. We don't need any more new buildings, but we do need architectural exploration, especially if it comes in a recyclable form. By Caroline Roux -- Phu Hoang Office/Rachely Rotem Studio; Moorhead & Moorhead; David Kohn Architects - Financial Times (UK)

Exhale Pavilion at Art Basel Miami Beach: Interview with Phu Hoang and Rachely Rotem: "Rather than relying on fixed relationships, we were staging possibilities for interactions between the public with the wind, the ropes and the light." By Jacob Slevin [images]- Huffington Post

Call for entries: Taichung Gateway Park International Design Competition (Taiwan): submit proposals for turning a former airport into an ecological "gateway park"...include plans for adding in renewable energy systems to increase local power generation, creating an "intelligent park management system," and increasing biodiversity; deadline: February 25, 2011 [links]- The Dirt/American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)

Putting Colors Together: An Interview with Will Alsop: For Alsop, it is the act of painting, the state of losing control - its imprecision and intuitiveness - that best define his initial vague intentions - and what ultimately brings him close to the



-- Saunders Architecture: Fogo Island Artist Studios, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, Canada
-- Zaha Hadid Architects: Evelyn Grace Academy, London, UK
-- Book: DINKA: Legendary Cattle Keepers of Sudan, By Angela Fisher & Carol Beckwith

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